

WASHINGTON – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28), Co-Chair of the Great Lakes Task Force, today applauded the announcement of \$20 million in federal grants that will further study and clean up the Great Lakes saying an investment in the Great Lakes is an investment in the New York economy.

Today the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the grant recipients at the Healing Our Waters conference in downtown Buffalo. Slaughter was unable to join the EPA for the announcement in Buffalo due to votes in Washington.

The funding was made available through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). In March 2009 Slaughter testified in front of the House Budget Committee to ensure GLRI was adequately funded and has been a tireless advocate for fully funding GLRI in the coming years, as well.

**“As the largest source of freshwater in the world, the Great Lakes are not only a prized natural resource but also a significant economic engine for our country. Millions of people benefit from the commerce and business that depend on the waters of the Great Lakes so I understand the value of the work that these grants will fund,”** said Slaughter. **“I’m delighted that the \$20 million announced today will combat the most significant environmental issues facing the lakes. This is a necessary investment in our local economy.”**

As Co-Chair of the Great Lakes Task Force, made up of members of the House and Senate representing constituents along the lakes, Slaughter has spoken often with Cameron Davis, Senior Advisor to U.S. EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson, about the need for increased federal funding for the restoration and protection of the Great Lakes.

**“These grants represent a critical investment in a place that is home to millions of Americans, billions of dollars in economic activity, and is by far the largest source of our nation’s fresh surface water,”** said Davis at the Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes conference in Buffalo. **“President Obama has made protecting the Great Lakes a national priority. EPA is investing in a diverse network of partners to achieve a new standard of care: leaving the Great Lakes better for the next generation.”**

Western New York will benefit greatly from the grants announced today. Among the local organizations provided funding are Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper, Buffalo State College, the Erie County Department of Health, Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation District and The Nature Conservancy, Central & Western NY Chapter. Details on the grants are provided below.

Slaughter was instrumental in ensuring \$475 million in federal funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) in FY 2010, testifying in front of the House Budget Committee and organizing her colleagues to support funding GLRI adequately. Through their efforts, GLRI is expected to receive an additional \$300 million in FY2011, and \$475 million each year for the three years following that.

For her testimony in front of the House Budget Committee in March 2009, click [here](#).

**For a full list of EPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grants Announced Today, click [here](#)**

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